SUPPLICATIONS

OF AN

ANCIENT PARENT,

WHO FOUND GREAT BENEFIT

FROM THE USE OF THE SAME;

AND WHICH

May eaſily be adapted to the Circumſtances of many Others:

ADDRESSED TO ALL SERIOUS AND AFFECTIONATE

PARENTS, GUARDIANS, TUTORS,

AND OTHER WELL-DISPOSED PERSONS,

OF EVERY DENOMINATION,

ABROAD AS WELL AS AT HOME.

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To all ſerious and affectionate Parents, Guardians, Tutors, *and other well-diſpoſed Perſons, of every deſcription, abroad and at home.*

THE Ancient Parent mentioned in the Title-Page, having found ſo much, and ſo great Comfort and Satisfaction, in the ſerious and ſolemn uſe of the Supplications hereto annexed, at length became willing to commit them to writing, and even to communicate the ſame in their *native ſimplicity*; not knowing, but that by the Providence of Divine *Goodneſs*, they might be pro-

productive of *ſimilar* or *equal Benefits* to many others.

And, ſhould this attempt be as favourably received, as *kindly* intended,----it may ſoon be accommodated to the Uſe of *Families* as well as *Individuals*; and, perhaps, contribute more effectually to mitigate that torrent of licentiouſneſs, which of late years has *ſo* vehemently broken in upon us, as nearly to overwhelm ſome even of our moſt *amiable Youth*; not only to the great diſparagement of *parental* and *tuitional aſſiduities*;--but, to the ſtill greater accumu-

accumulation of their own Perplexities; and consequently, those of their *neareſt* and *deareſt Friends.*

THIS
SMALL PRODUCTION
IS NOT LIGHTLY, THOUGH THUS HUMBLY,
INSCRIBED TO
JAMES HOGARTH, Eſq;
IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDMENT
OF HIS
SEDULOUS ENDEAVOURS
TO PROMOTE A TRUE SPIRIT
OF RELIGIOUS AND VIRTUOUS *INDUSTRY*
IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF *WHITEHAVEN.*
THE VERY PROSPECT OF
SEEING THEM WELL-SUPPORTED,
AND DULY EMULATED IN OTHER PLACES,
REFRESHES THE HOPES OF THOSE
WHO WISH WELL
TO *MANKIND.*
AND *ALSO,* TO THE
EXCELLENT AND PIOUS *AUTHOR* OF
"THOUGHTS
ON THE *IMPORTANCE* OF THE *MANNERS*
OF THE *GREAT*
TO *GENERAL SOCIETY.*"
THESE *THOUGHTS*
(AS I AM WELL INFORMED)
HAVE ALREADY PRODUCED SUCH *GOOD EFFECTS,*
AS JUSTLY INTITLE THEM
TO THE ESTEEM OF THE *PUBLIC,*
AS WELL AS *THAT* OF THE
ANCIENT PARENT HEREIN CONCERNED:
AND, MAY THE *BLESSINGS* OF HEAVEN
ATTEND THEM, AND
ALL BENEVOLENT ENDEAVOURS
TO THE SAME *END.*

SUPPLICATIONS

OF AN

ANCIENT PARENT;

Which may be eaſily accommodated to the Uſe of many Others.

O *Almighty God*, Maker of the whole world, and Judge of all mankind, have mercy upon me, miſerable ſinner.

Pardon and forgive me all the errors of my life paſt, I moſt earneſtly implore through the *merits* and *interceſſion* of my bleſſed *Redeemer*. Amen.

Graciouſly vouchſafe to me the *benefits* of thy heavenly *Comforter.*

O bleſſed *Spirit*, comfort and ſupport me under all my *trials*, *temptations*, *dangers*, &c. Make me *truly thankful* for the *comforts* I have ſo long and largely received;—and I humbly beg the *continuation* of them to my life's end. *Amen.*

Of thy loving-kindneſs alſo *lead* me and my poor *Family* thro' this ſtate of *our probation*; and hold us up that we *fail not.*

Fill

Fill our hearts with true *Faith* in the holy *Goſpels*, and due *obedience* to the Chriſtian *precepts* therein contained.

Open our eyes to diſcern the *Prophecies* which foretold the *Meſſiah*; with the *completions* of the ſame:

The *divinity* of his *inſtructions*:

And the *ſeal* of *Miracles*, in confirmation of the *whole*.

On *theſe foundations* help us, O Lord, to *build with ſafety*; and ſuffer us not to moulder away, through the *inventions of men*, which

which ſo often faſcinate and imbitter, perplex and confound.

Bleſs us alſo with *ſound judgment* and underſtanding, prudence and diſcretion, honeſt induſtry and diligence, *true wiſdom*,—*religion* and *virtue*.

Repleniſh our Hearts with *good thoughts* and *deſires*; and enable us to fulfil the ſame.

Give us *Chriſtian Strength* likewiſe, effectually to withſtand the wiles, ſnares, and temptations of the World, the Fleſh, and the Devil and his Agents: Evil company of every

every ſort and deſcription:—all evil thoughts alſo, ſights, books,* lewd prints, &c.

Oh! ſcreen and *guard* us from every thing hurtful to our ſouls and to our bodies.

Amen.

Of thy bounteous *goodneſs* likewiſe enrich our *hearts* with a true and lively *ſenſe* of *all* thy loving-kindneſs;

Of our *creation*;

Preſervations innumerable;

And all the *bleſſings* of life, from time to time, vouchſafed unto us.

* As *bad* company perhaps as any whatever.

Help and *diſpoſe* us to make a right, good, and *thankful uſe* of the ſame; and not to *abuſe* any part thereof.

But ſtill, *above* all, (becauſe *greateſt* of all)

Of thine ineſtimable love, in the *Redemption* of the world, by our Lord and *Saviour Jeſus Chriſt*;

Of the *Means* of *Grace*;

And of the *hopes* of *glory*.

O enable us to *cultivate* thoſe means, and to *cheriſh* thoſe hopes *properly*;----by endeavouring to *live* as ſuitably thereto as poſſible, to the utmoſt of our power, all the remainder of our *lives*. Amen.

God

God be gracious to my Father and Mother, Friends and Relations, Wife and Children, departed this life (as I hope and believe) in thy Faith and Fear.

And, O my *Parents*, *Friends* and *Relations*, *Wife* and *Children*, ---if *ye* can be any ways helpful to *thoſe* of us, who are ſtill groveling here on earth,---let your ſpirits hover round and *conſole* us.

But O eternal *Spirit* of *Almighty God*, who neither ſlumbereth nor ſleepeth,--be *You* our never-failing *Guardian*, *Monitor*, and *Protector*.

O GOD! make *clean* our *hearts* within us; and take not thy holy

Spirit

Spirit from us; no, not a moment, by night or by day, or ſleeping or waking.

Amen.

Bleſs all our ſurviving Friends with *health*, *peace*, and *comfort* here, and everlaſting *Happineſs* hereafter.

Bleſs *Me* alſo, O my heavenly Father, and my remaining *Family*, with *tranquility* and *contentment*, and thorough *ſubmiſſion* to thy divine *Will*.

Check and *reſtrain* us from every thing offenſive to *thy Laws*.

Prompt and *diſpoſe* us to *do* always that is *righteous* in thy ſight.

Preſerve

Preſerve and *keep* us under *thy Wing* and *Protection* whilſt we ſojourn here:—and, whenever it may pleaſe Thee to *call* us hence, graciouſly *receive* us into the Arms of thy *everlaſting Mercy*; there to *remain* with Thee, world without end: which, with whatever may be neceſſary for our Souls and Bodies in the mean time, I humbly beſeech Thee to *beſtow* upon us, through the Merits and Mediation of our bleſſed *Redeemer*; to whom, with *Thee* and the *Holy Ghoſt*, be all *Honour*, *Thanks*, and *Praiſe*.

Amen, Amen.

God be gracious to our *King* and *Queen* and *Royal Family*, and all that are put in *Authority* under them: as alſo, the *Members* of both Houſes of *Parliament*.

Graciouſly *diſpoſe* them to *act* as thy true and faithful *Vicegerents*, here on earth, ſo as may be moſt to *thy Honour* and *Glory*; the *Good* of their *own* Souls, and the common *Benefit* of Mankind.

For theſe Purpoſes, *influence* and *guide* them upon *all* Occaſions; but particularly, in the *Choice* of honeſt and able *Counſellors*, *Adminiſtrators*, *Judges*, *Biſhops*,

Bishops, *Admirals*, *Generals*, *Magistrates*, and Others.

Point out the fittest and the *Best:*

Raise them up; or *extract* them from wherever they may be found.

To the same End, *direct* as well as dispose all *Parents*, *Guardians*, *Tutors* and others intrusted with the Care of *Youth*, to use *their* best endeavours, by good Instructions and good *Examples*, to *train* them up in thy true *Faith*, *Fear*, and *Love*;--and, give *thy Blessing* to their *honest Endeavours* therein: as also, to all *Sunday* and

other

other *Schools*, *Seminaries*, *Academies*, *Univerſities*, &c.

Open likewiſe the *Heart* of the ſeveral Youth of *both Sexes:*

Prepare and *fit* them to *receive* good Inſtructions and good Examples, *with pure affection*; and alſo----thankfully to *retain* the ſame.

Specially enable them to *reject* with *real* abhorrence, the wicked inſinuations of wicked companions.

Suffer not the vile wretches, employed by the evil ſpirit, to do his worſt work (the ſeduction of Youth)--to ſucceed in their ſubtle attempts; but, by ſuch ways and means as

ſeem

ſeem beſt to thy godly Wiſdom, blight their wicked deſigns, and bring them to nought.

And, as to thoſe who lurk about, ſeeking whom they may devour;---Oh! permit them not to prey upon the *Inexperience* of *Youth*, the *Infirmities* of *Age*, or the *weakneſs* of *Ignorance*: but, *turn* their hearts, or otherwiſe *diſable* them from ſpreading their deadly miſchief.

At the ſame time, and on all *trying* occaſions, ſtretch out thy *fatherly* Hand to reſcue the *heſitating trembling Novices*:

Refreſh their *Chriſtian Vigour*.

Help them to be *ſtrong* and *ſteady* in their Duty;---to acquit themſelves, as *firm* and *faithful* Servants of Thee the living GOD: and *really* to be, not only *Ornaments*, but ſolid Comforts and Bleſſings to *Themſelves*, their *Families*, and their *Country*.

Amen, Amen.

Finally; O *Father* of all *Mercies*, be *merciful* to this *Nation*; and puniſh it not according to its *crying* Sins; but, hear the *Prayers* of *every* honeſt well-diſpoſed Perſon throughout theſe Realms, by night or by day, in private or in public;--and, let *their Cries* come unto Thee.

Accept alſo the exemplary *Piety* and reanimating *Exertions* of our *Royal Guardians*, for the general *Good* of the Community; together with the unwearied aſſiduities of *other Worthies*, by their repeated *efforts* of humanity and benevolence to *individuals*.

Look down likewiſe upon the various *Inſtitutions* throughout the *Britiſh Dominions*; not only for the *inſtruction* of *Youth*, but for the comfort and *ſupport* of the *aged* and *infirm*, the *ſick* and *wounded*, the *halt* and the *blind*: and---let *thy* Bleſſings *reſt* upon them.

But,

But, O bleſſed Spirit!---*diſpoſe* the Friends of the community to *extend* their good deſigns---yet a *little farther*--by *ſuppreſſing* (or, at leaſt, *diſcountenancing*) the ſchools of vice and immorality, ſo *very* productive of evils to come.

Amen.

O God of *pure Love*, diffuſe alſo a true ſpirit of *brotherly Love* and *Chriſtian Charity*, all around and about us.

And *ſo*, of thy unbounded *Goodneſs*, *turn* the hearts of our enemies abroad and at home; eſpecially, the evil-minded, ill-deſigning, wicked, and unthankful.

Turn

Turn the hearts of the riotous, ſeditious, and rebellious;---and even of the profligate and ſeemingly abandoned.

Even *ſo* alſo *turn away* thy wrathful diſpleaſure; and *ſave* us from plague, peſtilence, famine, and war;---from murrain, earthquakes, conflagrations, hurricanes, inundations, and the like.

At the ſame time, ſhelter and *preſerve* us from the whirlwind of our own unruly paſſions; and keep us at *diſtance* from the abſorbing gulph of licentiouſneſs; *ſo* that we may not *eaſily* be ſhattered to

pieces by the one, or ſwallowed up of the other.

Thus, O heavenly *Father!* *ſerenely* conduct us through *this life*, that we may reaſonably entertain well-grounded hopes of thy *Help* and *Protection* here, and *thy everlaſting Rewards* in Heaven.

Theſe and all *neceſſaries*, for our *Souls* and *Bodies*, and thoſe of our *Children*, and *Children's Children*, are farther ſupplicated, in the *name* and *words* of our only *Mediator* and *Advocate*.

Our *Father*, which art in Heaven;

Hallowed

Hallowed be thy Name;

Thy Kingdom come;

Thy Will be done in *Earth*, as it is in *Heaven:*

Give us this day our daily Bread;

And forgive us *our* Treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us:

And lead us not into temptation;

But,---*deliver us from evil.*

Amen.

The Grace of our Lord *Jeſus Chriſt*, and the Love of *God*, and the

the Fellowship of the *Holy Ghost*, be with us All, now and evermore.

Amen, Amen.

FINIS.

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